

THE NETHERLANDS (Non-Classified)

The Netherlands continues to provide a high proportion of its deployable forces for NATO-led crisis response operations and the NRF as well as participation in UN and EU missions, including the EU Battle Group.

In 2007, the Netherlands armed forces deployed in total approximately 7,060 personnel in operations (5,400 in NATO operations and 260 in NRF; and 900 in non-NATO operations and 500 in EU Battle Group). The average deployment on operations and stand-by in 2007 was approximately 2,580 military personnel.

In 2007, its forces have participated in ISAF, KFOR, OAE, NTM-I and several EU missions as EUFOR, EUPM, EUBAM and UN missions UNTSO, UNIFIL and UNMIS and also assisted in fire control operations in Greece and participated in disaster relief operations.

In particular, it provides a significant contribution to operations in Afghanistan, being the lead nation in Uruzgan, and providing a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and Battle Group. The Netherlands decided in November 2007 to continue its main operational efforts in ISAF and to extend its leading role in Uruzgan from August 2008 until August 2010. In this period the average military deployment in Uruzgan will be between 1,350-1,450 persons. It supports NATO's Operation Active Endeavour through its contributions to the standing maritime naval groups and has been a lead nation for a naval task force within Operation Enduring Freedom. It continues to participate in Balkans operations. The Netherlands have also decided to contribute from April 2008, for the period of one year, 60 military to the EU-led operation in Chad and the Central African Republic. It is a strong supporter of, and contributor to, the NRF and EU Battle Groups and also offers forces for the UN Standby High Readiness Brigade. It has had some 4,500 personnel on NRF standby during the last two years and provides a sizeable NRF contribution during the first half of 2008. It has contributed to a Battle Group in the first half of 2007 and will contribute to a Battle Group in the first six months of 2010 and 2011.

The land forces strength as reported is for 2007: 30,128; deployable personnel is 17,724 (58.8%); sustainable personnel is 3,056 (10.1%). Land forces strength in 2010 will be: 29,779; deployable 20,045 (67.3%); sustainable 3,090 (10.4%).

Further information on defence efforts and up-to-date information on current operational deployments see:

- www.mindef.nl/en/brochures/index.aspx

- www.mindef.nl/missies/ingezette_functies.aspx